

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3405

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7477

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SP

SUBJECT: REPORTED PLANS OF PRINCE JUAN CARLOS

EXDIS

1. COUNT OF MOTRICO CAME TO SEE ME THIS AFTERNOON TO PASS ON THE FOLLOWING WITH RESPECT TO JUAN CARLOS.

2. JUAN CARLOS' PRESENT THINKING IS THAT IMMEDIATELY ON FRANCO'S DEATH THE THREE-MAN COUNCIL OF THE REGENCY WOULD ASSUME THE HEADSHIP OF STATE AND WOULD CONDUCT THE FUNERAL. THERE WOULD BE A SEVERAL-DAY PERIOD OF LYING IN STATE, FOLLOWED BY THE FUNERAL CEREMONY. WITHIN A DAY AFTER, JUAN CARLOS WOULD BE INSTALLED AS KING OF SPAIN AT A SWEARING-IN CEREMONY BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE CORTES AND THE COUNCIL OF THE REALM. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, JUAN CARLOS WILL MAKE A RADIO/TELEVISION ADDRESS TO THE NATION AND THEN SHORTLY THEREAFTER WOULD HOPE TO DESIGNATE A NEW PRIME MINISTER AND GOVERNMENT. HIS PRESENT THINKING IS THAT FOUR DAYS AFTER THAT, THERE WOULD BE A TE DEUM, POSSIBLY BUT NOT PROBABLY, A MILITARY PARADE, AND THEN A FUNCTION AT THE ROYAL PALACE. JUAN CARLOS EXPECTS THAT FEW, IF ANY, OF THE WESTERN EUROPEANS WILL SEND HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS TO FRANCO'S FUNERAL, BUT HE HOPES VERY MUCH THAT THE MAJOR WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE WILLING TO SEND CHIEFS OF STATE OR NEXT RANKING OFFICIAL TO ATTEND THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONY AND THE FUNCTION AT THE ROYAL PALACE. MOTRICO

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TOLD ME THAT HE HAD ALREADY CONVEYED THIS INFORMATION

TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHO HAD TOLD HIM THAT GISCARD MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN COMING, BUT ONLY IF THE PRINCE'S RADIO/TELEVISION ADDRESS CLEARLY POINTED THE WAY TOWARD A MORE DEMOCRATIC SPAIN. MOTRICO SAID HE WOULD ALSO SHORTLY SPEAK TO THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR. (IN THIS CONNECTION, THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD ME THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT EITHER SCHEEL OR GENSCHER MIGHT BE WILLING TO ATTEND SOME CEREMONY IN CONNECTION WITH JUAN CARLOS' INSTALLATION.)

3. MOTRICO SAID THAT IT WAS THE PRINCE'S PRESENT THOUGHT TO APPOINT A CIVILIAN AS PRIME MINISTER (AND WE HEAR THAT MORICO'S NAME CONTINUES TO CIRCULATE AS A COMPROMISE CANDIDATE) AND TO APPOINT A MILITARY MAN AS THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING THE THREE SERVICES AND AS A FORERUNNER OF A DEFENSE MINISTRY. MOTRICO EMPHASIZED THAT THE NATURE OF THE PRINCE'S RADIO/TELEVISION ADDRESS AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE KEY IN SETTING THE NEW KING OFF ON THE RIGHT PATH.

4. MOTRICO INDICATED THAT ON THE PRINCE'S INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD SENT AN EMISSARY UP TO LAUSSANE TO SEE THE PRINCE'S FATHER SINCE THE PRINCE WAS TROUBLED AS TO WHAT DON JUAN MIGHT DO WITH RESPECT TO CHALLENGING THE LEGITIMACY OF JUAN CARLOS. THE EMISSARY HAD RETURNED TODAY WITH WORD THAT DON JUAN WOULD GIVE HIS MORAL AND PERSONAL SUPPORT TO JUAN CARLOS, BUT WOULD WITHHOLD HIS POLITICAL SUPPORT UNTIL HE SAW WHAT CONCRETE STEPS JUAN CARLOS WAS TAKING TOWARD DEMOCRACY. HOWEVER, DON JUAN PROMISED THAT HE WOULD REMAIN SILENT IN ORDER NOT TO COMPLICATE FURTHER HIS SON'S TASK.

5. FINALLY, MOTRICO STATED THAT JUAN CARLOS HAD RECEIVED THE MILITARY MINISTERS YESTERDAY IN ORDER TO SHOW THEM THAT HE WAS, IN FACT, NOW TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND IN ORDER TO RECONFIRM THEIR SUPPORT FOR HIM. THE MEETING HAD BEEN A USEFUL ONE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, GENERAL CAMPANO, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE CIVIL GUARD, HAD ALSO VISITED THE PRINCE AND ASSURED HIM OF HIS FULL LOYALTY. CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS WAS SIGNIFICANT IN VIEW OF REPORTS THAT CAMPANO, WHO IS A RIGHT-WINGER, MIGHT BE ORGANIZING MILITARY RESISTANCE TO ANY EFFORTS BY JUAN CARLOS TO OPEN UP THE REGIME. MOTRICO SAID THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS THAT THE ULTRA-RIGHTISTS MIGHT ENDEAVOR TO USE FRANCO'S FUNERAL TO SET IN TRAIN A POPULAR MANIFESTATION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUITY OF THE REGIME ALONG THE LINES OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF OCTOBER 1. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE

SECURITY MEASURES WHICH ARE ENVISAGED ARE SUCH THAT UPON
FRANCO'S DEATH, AND FOR A DETERMINED TIME THEREAFTER, NO
PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS WILL BE PERMITTED.
STABLER

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